unsaturated fatty acid, said fatty acid comprising from 16 to 20 carbon atoms or a mixture thereof.

2. (Amended) A method for culturing, propagating and replicating, *in vitro*, viruses belonging to the *Togaviridae* or *Flaviviridae* families, according to which there is at least one LVP fraction, associative with human immunoglobulins, obtained from serum or from plasma of a patient infected with a least one virus belonging to the *Togaviridae* or *Flaviviridae* families, and said fraction is brought into contact with permissible cells for a predetermined period of time in a suitable culture medium containing an activating agent chosen from an unsaturated fatty acid, or a derivative of an unsaturated fatty acid, said fatty acid comprising from 16 to 20 carbon atoms or a mixture thereof.

3. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, in which the receptor for lipoproteins is the LSR and /or the surface receptor from LDLs.

A1 cont

4. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, in which the unsaturated fatty acid is chosen from oleic acid, palmitoleic acid, linoleic acid, linolenic acid, arachidonic acid, transhexadecenoic acid and elaidic acid, or derivatives thereof.

A2

6. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, in which the permissive cells are primary human or animal hepatocyte cells, cells chosen from the human or animal hepatocarcinoma cell line group, denditric cells, macrophage cells, Kuppfer cells and combinations thereof which may or may not be associated with lymphocytes.

A3

8. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, in which the culture medium comprises, besides the ingredients required for culturing and the fatty acid or the derivative of fatty acid, an apoptosis-modulating agent.

A4

10. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, in which the medium is DMEM medium, or a medium derived from DMEM medium, RPMI medium or a derivative of RPMI medium.

13. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, in which, after bringing the permissive cells and said LVP fraction into contact, said permissive cells thus infected under conditions as defined according to claim 1 are subcultured several times and the presence of said virus is demonstrated in the said permissive cells by RT-PCR and/or by an immunological technique, such as by indirect immunofluorescence in particular using an antibody specific for said virus and/or by flow cytometry.

14. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, in which the virus belongs to the Flaviviridae family and to the Hepacivirus genus.

17. (Amended) A method for preparing a composition for detecting, in a sample, antibodies directed against at least one virus belonging to the *Togaviridae* or *Flaviviridae* families, which comprises at least one partial or total purification of the viral particles of said virus or of the polypeptides obtained in using a culturing method as claimed in claim 1.

19. (Amended) A method for obtaining antibodies or antibody fragments directed against at least one virus belonging to the *Togaviridae* or *Flaviviridae* families, according to which an animal is immunized with viral particles or polypeptides obtained using a culturing method as claimed in claim 1.

20. (Amended) A diagnostic composition comprising at least the viral particles according to the method defined in claim 17.

24. (Amended) A method for screening and/or selecting at least one antiviral molecule, according to which infected permissive cells are obtained in accordance with claim 1 and said antiviral molecule is brought into contact with said infected permissive cells.

Please cancel claim 16 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.